
Literally Speaking

NBPL Literacy Services 1000 Avocado, Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-717-3874 Summer 2009

A Publication of Newport Beach Public Library Literacy Services



Congratulations to Pim (PJ) Jelinek for her successful completion of the 2009 Adult Learner Leadership Institute (ALLI). PJ connected with learners from all over the world who shared a common goal of improving their English, especially as applied to practical leadership skills such as public speaking.



Sharpen Your Pencils!

After successfully debuting his “Powerful Paragraphs” writing class in March, instructor Toby Larson has agreed to share his skills with a larger audience. Toby will be teaching the class again to a new group of learners on 6 Wednesdays in June and July. Toby will also be “teaching the teacher” on June 17th at the 10:00 a.m. Tutor Connection meeting. Toby will help tutors learn how to help their learners improve their writing skills.



SAVE THE DATE !

Thursday, September 10th is International Literacy Day.

It is a time to celebrate and honor the hard work of learners, tutors, and volunteers who all contribute toward improving literacy in our community. One of the highlights of our International Literacy Day celebration is the yearly awarding of the Rochelle Hoffman Memorial Award to acknowledge the accomplishments of one learner. Tutors, please do not forget to turn in your Hoffman Award nominations by July 30th.

Author Gina Nahai Featured at May Fundraising Luncheon

Attendees at the May 1st Literacy Fundraising Luncheon were offered a glimpse into the life of author Gina Nahai. She told of her history as well as her journey toward learning to structure the writing down of all the stories that she had swirling in her head. Ms. Nahai’s colorful family and her upbringing in Iran provide characters and settings for her writings. Her novels highlight the “slow, excruciating march toward freedom and respect” for women in Iran. Although Ms. Nahai’s stories are deep and serious, she spoke with great warmth and humor and graciously answered questions afterwards. She spent time both before and after lunch signing books.

In addition, participants had the chance to bid on silent auction items donated by many generous local merchants. There were also balloon pops and opportunity drawings with the grand prize drawing for a fantastic gift basket donated by Wine Country Gift Baskets.

Kudos to the committee and volunteers organizing the event—they did a terrific job.



Gina Nahai



The ballroom at the Radisson-Newport Beach as people begin to arrive for the luncheon.

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.
~ Chinese proverb ~

Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the support of individuals, companies, and foundations who have given generously to Literacy Services. We thank the NBPL Friends of the Library as well as the NBPL Foundation for their continuing support. Many thanks also to all the merchants who generously contributed to our luncheon.

If you or someone you know would like to contribute, donations (payable to Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy) may be sent to the following address:

Newport Beach Public Library
Literacy Services
1000 Avocado Ave.

Newport Beach, CA 92660

We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

Welcome to Our New Tutors

We warmly welcome the following tutors who completed their tutor training in May: Peter Cowles, Bev Eppey, Anthony Gilbert, Tim Hatamian, Cathy Kent, Joel Leao, Vicki Merrill, Kimia Rezvani, Janet Shanks, Jerome Stoll, Tera Thoreson, and Helen Timpe.

For information on our upcoming tutor orientation and training, please contact the office.

Roles and Goals

Tutors: To help you meet the deadline for Roles & Goals reporting, a letter and necessary forms will be mailed to you in early June. Please read the materials over carefully, fill them out thoroughly, and return them to the Literacy Office by July 1st. Your diligence helps secure much-needed state funding for the continuance of the literacy program.

If you need help filling out the form, or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Cherall will also be available at Tutor Connection on June 17th to answer your questions.

Do you love to work crossword puzzles?

Here's a website for you to visit:
www.readwritethink.org/materials/crossword/

President's Message:

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

The word "summer" conjures up pleasurable images – vacation, sunny days, travel. While sunny days and beaches are within easy reach for us, travel may not be. However, travel writers offer the chance to explore new places from home. Travel writing is an ancient tradition, from Herodotus in 5th BC Greece to contemporary tales of living abroad like *A Year in Provence* or *Under the Tuscan Sun*. To quote Mason Colley, "Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay home." My favorites are books describing a foreign culture, books that convey a sense of place. In *84, Charing Cross Road* and *The Duchess of Bloomsbury Street* Helene Hanff describes how buying used books by mail from London leads to a life-changing friendship and a trip to London. *84, Charing Cross Road* was made into a film starring Anne Bancroft. *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* by Thaddeus Carhart, an American living in Paris, tells how buying a piano anchors his life in Paris. From China, Peter Hessler's *River Town* chronicles his two years as a Peace Corps volunteer. Closer to home, George Coit describes summers on Cape Cod in *The Big House* and Dayton Duncan travels the route taken by Lewis and Clark in *Out West*. All of these books (and many more) are in the library's collection; so enjoy your travels, wherever you are, this summer!

Carolyn

Some book humor from Groucho Marx:

I must say that I find television very educational. The minute somebody turns it on, I go to the library and read a book.

Outside a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside a dog, it's too dark to read.

Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!

2009 Writer to Writer Challenge

California Library Literacy Services sponsors an annual writing competition for adult learners in public library literacy programs. Adult learners are invited to read a book of their choice and then write a personal letter to the author of that book, sharing with the author their thoughts and opinions as to how the book affected them. Information and entry forms have been distributed; there are also additional copies in the office. Please send or bring completed entries to the Literacy Office by July 7, 2009.

Congratulations to the Learners who tried something new:

Refinanced a mortgage
Helped another learner
Became a volunteer

LITERALLY SPEAKING

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Literacy Services at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published quarterly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

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LEARNER'S CORNER

A Terrible Vacation

as written by an anonymous learner

It was the season of winter vacation three years ago. My husband had two days off and the restaurant closed Christmas Eve and Christmas, so he had four days off. We planned to go skiing in Lake Tahoe.

John Wayne Airport was very crowded. We waited for a long time to check bags and again to go through security. When I sat on my seat, I was a little tired. The plane took off on time, and we took a bus and arrived at the hotel. The next morning, I rented ski sets at the sports shop in the hotel. I took my ski gloves and goggles and got my ski boots. I held the skis in my right hand and ski boots in my left. I used both hands. When I got to the lobby, I put on ski boots. But my gloves and goggles were not in them. Where were my ski gloves and goggles? I returned to the sports shop and asked the clerk, but mine were not there. Next I asked the hotel clerk at front desk. He checked lost items but mine were not there. I gave up looking for my items and wanted to ski. So I returned to the ski shop and again bought gloves and goggles.

The weather was very nice and the view of the top of the mountain was so beautiful. I enjoyed skiing very much. I forgot my bad luck of the morning.

The third day, it was raining, so we gave up skiing. We went to the movie and shopping.

The last day, we planned to return home only. We slept late and ate breakfast. The weather was a winter storm. When we arrived at the airport, we heard information to delay our flight. We waited for about two hours in the airport. We had extra time so we played slot machines. When we got on our flight, we were the last passengers. We could find only one seat. We were two people. The flight was over booked. The cabin crew asked us to get off this flight. We had to give up and take the next flight, which was a connecting flight. Ours was a direct flight. But we got vouchers for about \$400.00 because of overbooking. We returned home at ten o'clock. If we returned on schedule, we would have been home by six. We were so tired.

Learners: We are interested in seeing your stories, poems, recipes (along with a short story about why the recipe is special to you), or other writings that we can include in an upcoming learner publication or a future issue of "Literally Speaking", with your permission, of course.

Newport Beach Public Library
Literacy Services
1000 Avocado Avenue
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.	Adult Learner Discussion Group
June 3, 10, 17, 24	Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.	Powerful Paragraphs Writing Class
June 4, 11, 18, 25	Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.	Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs
June 4, 11, 18	Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.	Adult Learner Conversation Group
June 9	Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.	Families Program
June 10, 17, 24	Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Pronunciation Group
June 15, 22, 29	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Book Club
June 17	Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.	Tutor Connection
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Pronunciation Group
July 1, 8	Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.	Powerful Paragraphs Writing Class
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.	Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs
July 3, 4	Library Closed	
July 6, 13, 20, 27	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Book Club
July 7, 14, 21, 28	Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.	Adult Learner Discussion Group
July 8	Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	New Learner Orientation
July 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.	Adult Learner Conversation Group
July 14	Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.	Advisory Board Meeting
July 15	Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	New Tutor Orientation
August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Mondays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Book Club
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m.	Adult Learner Discussion Group
August 5, 12, 19, 26	Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.	Adult Learner Pronunciation Group
August 5, 12	Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.	Tutor Training
August 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.	Adult Learner Life Skills Dialogs
August 6, 13, 20, 27	Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.	Adult Learner Conversation Group

Note: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted. For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@city.newport-beach.ca.us